

PATENT
P-5243**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully submits this response to an Office Action mailed by the USPTO on April 15, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4-12 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi et al. as described in EP 716,834 A1 (hereinafter "Igarashi"). Igarashi teaches a "stent" including a hollow cylindrical body having an internal surface coated with a specific type of chemical deposition. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Although Igarashi describes processing of a stent including a step of chemical deposition on a surface of the stent, Igarashi does not teach the specifications required for application of a lubricious coating on a medical device having a "flexible surface" as is required in claims 1 and 13 of Applicants' invention. Indeed, lubrication for devices that are *intended to be flexible* is not even mentioned in the Igarashi reference. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the claimed invention is allowable over the Igarashi reference. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 (a) as unpatentable over Goldhardt et al. as described in published application WO 95/045,664, (hereinafter, "Goldhardt") and Ragheb et al. as described in published application WO 00/10,622 (hereinafter, "Ragheb"), considered separately.

The Goldhardt application teaches coating an external feeding device with a polymer using a vapor deposition technique. Particularly, Goldhardt focuses on polymer coating materials that deter clogging and device degradation. (See page 5, first two paragraphs). Goldhardt teaches away from Applicants invention in that it describes a process for enhancing device structure and rigidity, as opposed to expecting device flexibility.

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Ragheb describes deposition of polymers on devices for aiding in the delivery of "bioactive material" to a patient (See page 4, lines 5-11). Ragheb does not envision, suggest or teach accommodation for medical devices having a "flexible surface" as recited in claims 1 and 13 of Applicants' invention.

In view of the Remarks above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of the present application in view of the cited art. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Any questions concerning this application may be directed to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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